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Country: Czechoslovakia

Subject: Notes on the Usti Nad Labem Chemical Plant, Production of Poisonous Gases/ Lovosice Chemical Plant (Tovarna na Umela Hnojiva), Production of Sulphuric Acid, West German Equipment.

Portions are interesting & valuable ORR

Place Acquired: Nuremberg

Date Acquired: [redacted] 50X1 50X1

Date of Info: [redacted]

Source: [redacted]

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50X1 Chemical Plant, Usti Nad Labem 50X1

1. "The most important department of the chemical plant in Usti Nad Labem is Dep[redacted] #6., the so-called 'military department' which produces poisonous gases. The main product is a poisonous gas known as 'Fosgen'. The daily output has reached 800-1,000 kg. [date not specified; presumably 1952.]

2. "This department of the Usti Nad Labem chemical plant was established during the German Occupation. The production was continued after the end of World War II. Employees of this department are issued special red identification cards which e[redacted] title them to enter any part of the plant. Other employees have green cards and are forbidden to enter Dept. #6. Another category of employees, which includes laboratory workers, carry blue cards and are allowed to enter the military depar[redacted] ment.

50X1 3. "Department #6 employed [dates not specified] 16 skilled workers and six quali[redacted] ed chemical research workers. Among the latter I knew personally (fnu) Kubec, Engineer (fnu) Jara, (fnu) Dvorak and Dr. (fnu) Nevrly. Administratively this d[redacted] partment is directly subordinated to the Security Division of the chemical plant at Usti Nad Labem. That division is headed by a fanatical Communist (name unkno[redacted] who was formerly a Major of the Czechoslovak Army in the USSR. He is about 36 [redacted] and unmarried.

"Department #6 fulfilled its production plan 135% [date not specified] and becam[redacted] thus the most efficient department of the whole chemical plant.

"The lowest production result was that of the department for sulphuric acids. Owing to the lack of a special material (kontaktni hmota), produced by the chem- ical plant in Prostejov, this department fulfilled only 55-60% of its plan.

"Department #4 of the plant produced 'Trinitrotoluol' and Picric acid (Kyselina Pikrova). It employed 50 employees in three shifts.

This unevaluated information for us on [redacted] daily is su[redacted] for the possible inte[redacted] your a[redacted] It does not warrant dissem[redacted]

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7. "The machinery and equipment of the Usti Nad Labem chemical plant is old and in bad condition since nothing new has been installed since 1945. Working conditions are unhealthy and dangerous, because the pipes and ventilators are not absolutely airtight. Poisonous gases leak out. The only modern piece of equipment is a special X-ray apparatus for the examination of steel and iron samples which arrive from various steel works. These samples included a new special steel, 'IF 16' produced by the Skoda Works in Plzen.

8. "The last serious accident in the Usti-Nad Labem chemical plant occurred in September 1951 in Dept. #6., when one of the boilers filled with 'Fosgen' exploded. Four workers were killed on the spot; four others died later of injuries in the hospital. The accident was, of course, never reported by the Communist press.

9. "The Chairman of the Factory Council is (fnu) Kourim.

Chemical Plant('Tovarna na Umela Hnojiva'), Lovosice.

10. "The chemical plant in Lovosice bears the official name of 'Factory for Artificial Fertilizers' (Tovarna na Umela Hnojiva). It went into operation in January 1951. This factory is located next to an artificial silk factory, between the Labe River and the road which leads from Lovosice to Litomerice. At the time I worked there [not specified] only one department of the plant -- the Dept. for Sulphuric Acid -- was in operation.

11. "The Dept. for Sulphuric Acid employs 140 workers. The daily output is about 44 tons of sulphuric acid. Part of this output is used for the production of phosphates and part is delivered to other factories, including the chemical plant in Usti Nad Labem, the iron works in Kladno, the chemical factory in Prostejov, the dynamite factory in Bratislava and the factory producing synthetic fats in Praha-Hloubetin.

12. "The Lovosice chemical plant is equipped with modern machinery which was assembled on the spot under the supervision of the West German firm Petersen. The Petersen firm sent an engineer and a Doctor of Chemistry to supervise the installation job. According to existing plans, the plant is to become one of the largest chemical plants in Czechoslovakia. Once the expansion is completed, the Lovosice plant production will include nitric acid and hydrogen.

13. "The plant is connected by a sideline with the main railway line. It is connected by an underground pipeline with the Stalin Works from which it receives gas for heating purposes.

14. "The director of the Lovosice plant is Alois Sliva [date not specified]. His top-level staff consists of:

Milos Crha	- in charge of production, also head of the Youth League group in the plant.
Vaclav Houska	- in charge of administration
Viteslav Sourek	- in charge of security and the factory militia
Eduard Vobornik	- in charge of the Transport Dept
Ladislav Zak	- head of the CP branch in the plant
Frantisek Hajek	- in charge of wage policy
Antonin Rous	- in charge of wage policy
Karel Bacik	- two officials of the wage department
Karel Hajek	" " " " " "

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Frantisek Duchon
Landislav Zak - 'master-workers' (distinguished shockworkers) in sulphuric acid production.

Bohmuil Jangl
Vaclav Sebek
Josef Kremenak - 'master-workers" in superphosphate production."

- end -

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